

## CLAIMS

### What is claimed is:

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2 1. In a server, a method of operation comprising:  
3 accepting check in by a client computer at a first point in time to determine if  
4 the client computer's software needs to be updated; and  
5 providing the client computer with an update task list listing one or more tasks  
6 to be performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points  
7 in time to update the client computer's software, if it is determined that the client  
8 computer's software is to be updated.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises determining if  
2 the client computer's software needs to be updated.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by  
2 the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update  
3 the client computer's software comprise re-contacting the server at a later point or  
4 later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by  
2 the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update  
3 the client computer's software comprise contacting one or more third part servers at  
4 a later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by  
2 the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update

3 the client computer's software comprise one or more installation tasks to be  
4 performed asynchronously at a later point or later points in time upon  
5 asynchronously obtaining one or more software parts.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises servicing one  
2 or more subsequent asynchronous requests from the client computer for software  
3 parts in accordance with the tasks listed the said task list.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said servicing comprises asking the client  
2 computer to retry one or more of the subsequent asynchronous requests for  
3 software parts.

1 8. In a client computer, a method of operation comprising:  
2 periodically checking in with a server to determine if the client computer's  
3 software needs to be updated;  
4 receiving from the server an update task list listing one or more tasks to be  
5 performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in  
6 time to update the client computer's software, upon determining the client  
7 computer's software needs to be updated; and  
8 performing said one or more tasks asynchronously at a later point or later  
9 points in time to update the client computer's software.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by  
2 the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update  
3 the client computer's software comprise re-contacting the server at a later point or  
4 later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by  
2 the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update  
3 the client computer's software comprise contacting one or more third part servers at  
4 a later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by  
2 the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update  
3 the client computer's software comprise one or more installation tasks to be  
4 performed asynchronously at a later point or later points in time upon  
5 asynchronously obtaining one or more software parts.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises scheduling  
2 asynchronous performance of said tasks.

1 13. An apparatus comprising:  
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions  
3 designed to accept check in by a client computer at a first point in time to determine  
4 if the client computer's software needs to be updated, and to provide the client  
5 computer with an update task list listing one or more tasks to be performed by the  
6 client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update the  
7 client computer's software, if it is determined that the client computer's software is to  
8 be updated; and  
9 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the  
10 programming instructions.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the programming instructions are further  
2 designed to determine whether the client computer's software needs to be updated.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed  
2 by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to  
3 update the client computer's software comprise contacting one or more third part  
4 servers at a later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed  
2 by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to  
3 update the client computer's software comprise one or more installation tasks to be  
4 performed asynchronously at a later point or later points in time upon  
5 asynchronously obtaining one or more software parts.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the programming instructions are further  
2 designed to service one or more subsequent asynchronous requests from the client  
3 computer for software parts in accordance with the tasks listed the said task list.

1     19.     The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said programming instructions are further  
2     designed to ask the client computer to retry one or more of the subsequent  
3     asynchronous requests for software parts.

1 20. A client computer comprising:

2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions  
 3 designed to periodically check in with a server to determine if the client computer's  
 4 software needs to be updated, to receive from the server an update task list listing  
 5 one or more tasks to be performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later  
 6 point or later points in time to update the client computer's software, upon  
 7 determining the client computer's software needs to be updated, and to perform said  
 8 one or more tasks asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update  
 9 the client computer's software; and

10 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the  
 11 programming instructions.

1 21. The client computer of claim 20, wherein said one or more tasks to be  
 2 performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in  
 3 time to update the client computer's software comprise re-contacting the server at a  
 4 later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1 22. The client computer of claim 20, wherein said one or more tasks to be  
 2 performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in  
 3 time to update the client computer's software comprise contacting one or more third  
 4 part servers at a later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software  
 5 parts.

1 23. The client computer of claim 20, wherein said one or more tasks to be  
 2 performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in  
 3 time to update the client computer's software comprise one or more installation  
 4 tasks to be performed asynchronously at a later point or later points in time upon  
 5 asynchronously obtaining one or more software parts.

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1 24. The client computer of claim 20, wherein the programming instructions are  
2 further designed to schedule asynchronous performance of said tasks.

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